

ARCTIC - SPITSBERGEN



INTRODUCTION

A voyage starting in Longyearbyen (Spitsbergen) sailing into Raudfjord and to Moffen Island on the North coast of West Spitsbergen, then sailing along the Northeast coast of Greenland and ending in Akureyri (Iceland). Approaching Greenland we will attempt to sail through the sea ice into Foster Bugt, making our first landing at Myggebugten. Beyond the old hunters' hut (in the first half of last century Norwegian trappers hunted here for Polar Bear and Arctic Fox) there is an extensive tundra populated by Musk Oxen.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrival in Longyearbyen

We arrive in Longyearbyen, on Spitsbergen, the administrative capital of the Spitsbergen archipelago of which West Spitsbergen is the largest island. Before embarking there is an opportunity to visit this former mining village. The Parish Church and the Polar Museum are well worth visiting. In the early evening the ship will sail out of Isfjorden.



TRIP CODE

ACTSNGAB

DEPARTURE

02/09/2019, 31/08/2020

DURATION

14 Days

LOCATIONS

Arctic



ARCTIC - SPITSBERGEN

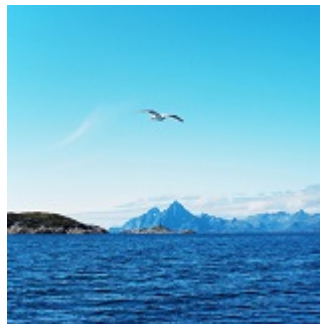
DAY 2: Raudfjord

We sail into Raudfjord on the north coast of West Spitsbergen, a beautiful fjord with spectacular glaciers. It is home to Ringed and Bearded Seal, seabird colonies and a surprisingly rich vegetation. We have good chances to see Polar Bear, for instance near Hamilton Glacier, or more to the head of the fjord. From there we continue to Moffen Island on which Walrus haul out.



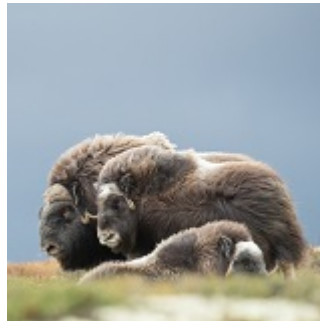
DAY 3: At sea, enroute to Greenland -Day 3 & 4

At sea, on our way to Greenland, we may see the edge of the East Greenland sea-ice. We keep watch for whales, and also for migrating seabirds.



DAY 5: Reaching Greenland, first landing at Myggebugten

Approaching Greenland we will attempt to sail through the sea ice into Foster Bugt, making our first landing at Myggebugten. Beyond the old hunters' hut (in the first half of last century Norwegian trappers hunted here for Polar Bear and Arctic Fox) there is an extensive tundra populated by Musk Oxen. The small lakes are home to geese. We sail through Kaiser Franz Joseph Fjord, a magnificent fjord with towering mountains on both sides, its inner reaches choked with huge icebergs. An alternative is Sofia Sund, which is much narrower.



DAY 6: Blomster Bugt

We will land at Blomster Bugt to view the beautiful geological formations. Arctic Hare are usually seen here, and there is a lake with Great Northern Diver and their young. In the afternoon we sail along Teufelschloss and Ella Ø and may land at a beautiful spot in the early evening.



TRIP CODE

ACTSNGAB

DEPARTURE

02/09/2019, 31/08/2020

DURATION

14 Days

LOCATIONS

Arctic



ARCTIC - SPITSBERGEN

DAY 7: Muskoxen, Arctic hare, and Ptarmigan

In the morning we enter Segelsällskapetets Fjord with the beautiful Berzelius Mountains on the north side. We will land on the south side of the fjord in an astounding place where the ancient sedimentary geology is literally at your feet. A hike will take us near a small lake with good chances to see Muskoxen, Arctic hare, and Ptarmigan. In the afternoon the ship will venture into Alpe Fjord, which is as spectacular as the name implies. We may embark on a long Zodiac cruise around the Gully Glacier which once blocked the access to the interior of the fjord and venture deep inside to the very end. Adventure at its finest!



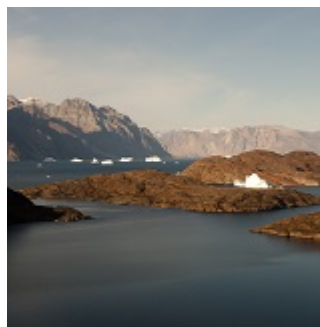
DAY 8: We reach Antartcichavn

The first half of the day we spend in Antartcichavn, a wide and extensive valley where we also could see groups of Musk Oxen. At this time of year the autumnal colours of the sparse vegetation make the landscapes even more beautiful.



DAY 9: Scoresby Sund and Volquart Boons Kyst

Today we reach the Scoresby Sund and sail in the morning along the ragged and glaciated Volquart Boons Kyst. Here we may organise a zodiac cruise along one of the glacier fronts of this coast, and have our first landing near for instance Måne Glacier. Later we land on Danmark Ø where we find the remains of an Inuit settlement abandoned around 200 years ago. The circular 'tent rings' of stones indicate the summer houses, while the winter houses can be seen closer to a small cape. The sites are well preserved, allowing entrances and even bear-proof meat caches to be identified. There are also grave sites. In the evening we continue our sailing through the beautiful fjords to the west, choked with icebergs.



TRIP CODE

ACTSNGAB

DEPARTURE

02/09/2019, 31/08/2020

DURATION

14 Days

LOCATIONS

Arctic



ARCTIC - SPITSBERGEN

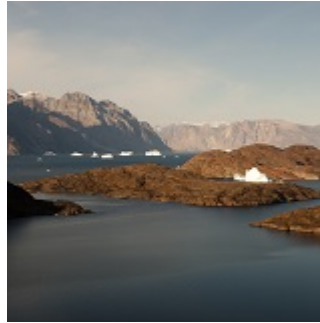
DAY 10: Hofman Halvø

We go ashore at C. Hofman Halvø, a reliable spot for viewing Musk Oxen. We may also spot Rock Ptarmigan and Great Northern Diver at sea. The landscape here is particularly beautiful, especially during autumn when the Dwarf Willow and Dwarf Birch change colour. Arctic Blueberry and Crowberry add their own colourful touch - the berries are tasty too! In the evening we sail through the fjord towards Scoresby Land, enjoying the contrast between the warm autumnal colours of the vegetation on shore, backed by huge dark mountains, and the cold blue of the icebergs.



DAY 11: Scoresby Land

In Northwest fjord in Scoresby Land in the morning, we encounter huge icebergs, some over 100m high and more than a kilometre in length. Most of the bergs are grounded as the fjord is only about 400m deep here. We land near Sydkap to view the remains of the Thule culture winter houses. As many as 20 people lived in these tiny houses, hunting Greenland Whale and using their vertebrae to build the houses. We may also land at Gurreholm on Jameson Land. The landscape here is gently undulating.



DAY 12: Ittoqqortoormiit

In the morning we land at Ittoqqortoormiit, the biggest settlement in the Scoresby Sund with about 500 inhabitants. At the post office you can buy stamps for your postcards, or just wander around to see the sledge dogs and the drying skins of Seal, Musk Ox and Polar Bear. After dinner we will sail south passing the amazing landscape of the Blossville Coast.



DAY 13: At sea

We will spend the whole day at sea and we will have splendid opportunities to see large whales and seabird migration and, in the night, the Aurora borealis (Northern Lights).



TRIP CODE

ACTSNGAB

DEPARTURE

02/09/2019, 31/08/2020

DURATION

14 Days

LOCATIONS

Arctic



ARCTIC - SPITSBERGEN

DAY 14: Disembarkation in Akureyri

In the morning we arrive in Akureyri and transfer by chartered bus to Hotel Reykjavik Centrum, Adalstraeti 16 in Reykjavik (6 hours)



INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation Standard

Inclusions

All on-board accommodation
All meals throughout voyage
All shore excursions and activities by Zodiac
Program of lectures by expedition staff
Complimentary use of rubber boots during voyage
Transfer and baggage handling between Akureyri and Hotel Reykjavik by coach
All miscellaneous service taxes and port charges throughout the programme
AECO fees and government taxes
Comprehensive Pre-departure material

Exclusions
Airfare to/from disembarkation city
Visa fees (if applicable)
Travel insurance
Beverages (other than tea & coffee)
Personal expenses (such as laundry and telecommunications)
Gratuities for the crew

Difficulty Rating 2 (light adventure)

Single Surcharge Available upon request

Notes Contact us for more details

Price Dependent upon Season and availability

SUSTAINABILITY

TRIP CODE

ACTSNGAB

DEPARTURE

02/09/2019, 31/08/2020

DURATION

14 Days

LOCATIONS

Arctic

